

## STATE APPROVED GIFTED PROGRAMS

The General Assembly passed legislation to create a new funding system for K-12 education in 2005. In this newly adopted system, the gifted categorical is folded into the district's base amount of state aid. The new formula is to be phased in over a seven-year period. During the phase-in period, if a school district experiences a decrease in its gifted program enrollment of more than twenty percent from its 2005-2006 gifted program enrollment in any year then an amount equal to the product of the percent reduction in the district's gifted program enrollment multiplied by the funds generated by the district's gifted program in the 2005-2006 school year shall be subtracted from the district's current year payment amount.

Two statutes now govern all school districts' gifted programs regardless of whether or not they received funding for gifted in the past. The first, Section 162.675, RSMo, defines gifted children as "those children who exhibit precocious development of mental capacity and learning potential as determined by competent professional evaluation to the extent that continued educational growth and stimulation could best be served by an academic environment beyond that offered through a standard grade level curriculum." The second, Section 162.720, RSMo, states that school districts may establish programs for gifted children "where a sufficient number of children are determined to be gifted and their development requires programs or services beyond the level of those ordinarily provided in regular public school programs . . ." and states that the State Board of Education "shall determine standards for such programs. Approval of such programs shall be made by the State Department of Education based upon project applications submitted each year."

These statutes have implications for all school districts in the state regardless of whether or not they have received state gifted funding in the past. ALL districts with gifted programs must follow the rules and regulations set forth in the Administrative Manual and Guidelines for gifted programs. There is no longer a limit to the number of students who can be served in a state approved gifted program. It is the district's responsibility to use the foundation funding they receive to support their gifted program and the "application" for state approval will be the October Cycle of Core Data submitted annually by the district.

The Missouri School Improvement Program contains a standard in Differentiated Instruction describing the types of programs and services schools are expected to provide.

Standard 7.2 - Gifted Education - The district identifies gifted and talented students at all levels and provides them differentiated instruction suitable for their levels of intellectual and social maturity.

The Administrative Manual and Guidelines may be found at [www.dese.mo.gov/divimprove/gifted](http://www.dese.mo.gov/divimprove/gifted) If you have additional questions about state approved gifted programs you may contact the gifted education section at (573) 751-2453.